

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Patrick T. Jouppi et al.

Serial No.: 10/656,844

Filed: September 5, 2003

Docket No.: G180.151.101 (6280US)

Title: RECLOSEABLE CARTON

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 24 and 28 and add newly presented claim 29.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 18, 20, and 23 as follows:

- 1.(Currently Amended)      A blank for forming a carton, the blank comprising:
  - a first major panel;
  - a second major panel;
  - a first minor panel connected between the first and second major panels;
  - a first closure flap connected to a first end of the first major panel and extending therefrom to a leading edge, the first closure flap including a central region forming a tuck slot that is open relative to the leading edge, the central region defining a first, a second, and a third section, the leading edge at the first and third sections tapering at a taper angle to the second section such that the second section defines a minimum width of the tuck slot; and
  - a second closure flap extending from a first end of the second major panel, the second closure flap forming a tab including opposing side portions tapering at a taper angle to a central portion;
  - wherein the taper angle of the tuck slot is greater than the taper angle of the tab such that the tuck slot is adapted to selectively receive the tab in a carton formed by the blank.
- 2.(Original)      The blank of claim 1, wherein at least the central region of the first closure flap is characterized by the absence of a perforation cut.
- 3.(Original)      The blank of claim 1, wherein the tuck slot is characterized as not being defined by a perforation cut.

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4.(Currently Amended) The blank of claim 1, wherein the first closure flap further includes first and second side regions at opposite sides of the central region, respectively, and further wherein ~~of a~~ a maximum linear extension of each of the side regions adjacent the tuck slot relative to the first end of the first major panel is greater than a majority of a linear extension of the central region.

5.(Original) The blank of claim 4, wherein at least a portion of the leading edge at the central region is not aligned with the leading edge at the first side region.

6.(Currently Amended) The blank of claim 4, wherein the ~~leading edge at the central region defines a~~ first section extending from the first side region, ~~a the~~ second section extending from the first section, and ~~a the~~ third section extending from the second section to the second side region, and further wherein the first section extends from the second section in an angular fashion in a plane of the blank.

7.(Original) The blank of claim 6, wherein extension of the first section from the second section defines a taper angle in the range of 40° – 70°.

8.(Original) The blank of claim 6, wherein the third section extends from the second section in an angular fashion in a plane of the blank.

9.(Original) The blank of claim 6, wherein relative to the first end of the first major panel, the first section extends inwardly from the first side region to the second section, and the third section extends inwardly from the second side region to the second section.

10.(Currently Amended) The blank of claim 6, wherein the leading edge at the second section is off-set from the leading edge at the first ~~end~~ and second side regions in a plane of the blank.

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11.(Original) The blank of claim 4, wherein at least a portion of the leading edge at the first side region is aligned with at least a portion of the leading edge at the second side region and is not aligned with the leading edge at the central region.

12.(Original) The blank of claim 1, wherein the tuck slot defines an opening having an area of at least 0.5<sup>2</sup> inch.

13.(Original) The blank of claim 1, wherein the tuck slot has a longitudinal width in a plane of the blank of at least 0.125 inch.

14.(Original) The blank of claim 1, further comprising:

a third closure flap extending from an end of the first major panel opposite the first closure flap; and

a fourth closure flap extending from an end of the second major panel opposite the second closure flap;

wherein one of the third and fourth closure flaps forms a second tuck slot that is open relative to a leading edge thereof and an other of the third and fourth closure flaps forms a second tab;

further wherein the second tuck slot is adapted to receive the second tab in a carton formed by the blank.

15.(Original) The blank of claim 1, wherein the first and second major panels are arranged such that the first end of the first major panel is generally aligned with the first end of the second major panel in a plane of the blank.

16.(Original) The blank of claim 15, further comprising:

a glue flap connected to the first major panel opposite the first minor panel; and

a second minor panel connected to the second major panel opposite the first minor panel.

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17.(Original) The blank of claim 15, further comprising:

- a second minor panel connected to the first major panel opposite the first minor panel;
- and
- a glue flap connected to the second major panel opposite the first minor panel.

18.(Currently Amended) The blank of claim 1, wherein the first and second major panels are arranged such that the first end of the first major panel is generally parallel to, but not aligned with, the first end of the second major panel in a plane of the blank.

19.(Original) The blank of claim 18, further comprising:

- first and second side flaps extending from opposite ends of the first major panel, respectively, in a perpendicular fashion relative to an extension of the first closure flap in a plane of the blank; and
- third and fourth side flaps extending from opposite ends of the second major panel, respectively, in a perpendicular fashion, relative to an extension of the second closure flap in a plane of the blank.

20.(Currently Amended) A carton comprising:

- a front wall;
- a back wall;
- opposing side walls connecting opposite sides of the front and back walls, respectively, to define a tubular structure having a top and a bottom;
- a bottom closure provided at the bottom of the tubular structure; and
- a top closure provided at the top of the tubular structure, the top closure including:
  - a first closure flap extending to a leading edge and including a central region forming a tuck slot that is open relative to the leading edge, the central region defining first, second, and third sections, the leading edge at the first and third sections tapering at a taper angle to the second section such that the second section defines a minimum width of the tuck slot, and

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a second closure flap forming a tab including opposing side portions tapering at a taper angle to a central portion, the taper angle of the tuck slot being greater than the taper angle of the tab;

wherein the top closure is configured such that the tuck slot selectively receives the tab as part of a reclosure operation.

21.(Original) The carton of claim 20, wherein at least the central region of the first closure flap is characterized by the absence of a perforation cut.

22.(Original) The carton of claim 20, wherein the tuck slot is characterized as not be defined by a perforation cut.

23.(Currently Amended) The carton of claim 20, wherein ~~the tuck slot is defined by a first section, a second section, and a third section, and further wherein an~~ extension of the first section relative to the second section and an extension of the third sections relative to the second section each defines a taper angle greater than 30° in a plane of the first closure flap.

24.(Cancelled)

25.(Original) The carton of claim 20, wherein the first closure flap is connected to the front wall, and the second closure flap is connected to the back wall.

26.(Original) The carton of claim 20, wherein the first closure flap is connected to the back wall, and the second closure flap is connected to the front wall.

27.(Original) The carton of claim 20, wherein the bottom closure includes:

a third closure flap extending to a leading edge and including a central region forming a second tuck slot that is open relative to the leading edge of the third closure flap;

a fourth closure flap forming a tab;

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wherein the bottom closure is configured such that the second tuck slot selectively receives the second tab as part of a reclosure operation.

28.(Cancelled)

29.(New) The carton of claim 20, wherein a maximum width of the tuck slot is greater than a maximum width of the tab.